

This is an official

DHEC Health Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network
October 27, 2006

Seasonal Influenza Surveillance

This update is meant to provide healthcare professionals with the latest information on:

- Current influenza activity status in South Carolina
- Recommended laboratory testing and reporting requirements for influenza
- Voluntary influenza monitoring system networks with incentives
- Resource Links
- Attachment: Positive Rapid Influenza Worksheet with local health department contact information

Current South Carolina Influenza Activity, as of October 27, 2006

The official influenza activity in South Carolina is "No Activity". Official Influenza Activity will be documented once the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories has confirmed its first influenza viral isolate. Positive influenza culture specimens from commercial laboratories should be forwarded to DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for virus typing.

DHEC Preferred Influenza Laboratory Testing Practices for Seasonal Influenza

Serological Influenza Testing is NOT Recommended for Surveillance Purposes

Routine serological testing for influenza requires paired acute and convalescent sera, does not provide timely results to help with clinical decision-making and is not generally recommended for diagnostic or epidemiologic surveillance. Serological testing results for human influenza on a single serum specimen is not interpretable and is not recommended.

Positive Rapid Antigen Testing and Reporting to DHEC

Commercial rapid diagnostic test kits most commonly use a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimen. Results are available to the clinician in approximately 30 minutes and indicate the presence of influenza virus as well as serological typing of A, B or A and B, depending on the brand of rapid antigen testing kit used. Some of these kits are approved for use in any outpatient setting.

DHEC requires weekly submission to the local health department of summary numbers of positive rapid influenza tests and typing identified by fax or email by Monday at noon for the preceding week. Those wishing to email this information weekly should call their local health department to identify the staff to whom the emails should be sent.

A copy of the summary weekly worksheet is attached to this health update along with the local health department contacts.

Influenza Cultures and Positive Result Reporting to DHEC

The collection of some respiratory samples for viral culture is essential for determining the influenza A subtypes and influenza A and B strains causing illness, and for surveillance of new strains that may need to be included in the next year's influenza vaccine. During outbreaks of influenza-like illness, viral culture also can help identify other causes of illness.

Positive influenza cultures should be reported to DHEC within 7 days. Submitted reports should include patient name, age and address, including county.

Volunteer Influenza Monitoring Networks to Identify ‘Where, How Much and What Strain’

DHEC Laboratory Influenza Culture Network

As always, DHEC will continue to provide FREE influenza culture media and pre-paid packaging to practices wishing to participate in the DHEC Laboratory Influenza Culture Network. Providers are asked to submit samples (3-4) for FREE culture processing by DHEC at the beginning, middle and end of the influenza season for confirmation of influenza strains circulating in the state. Those wishing to enroll in the Laboratory Culture Network should contact Nena Turner in the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories at 803-896-0819 or the epidemiology section at their local health department.

CDC Volunteer Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Sentinel Providers Network

Volunteer healthcare providers in South Carolina submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen and the subset number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of >100°F) plus either a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. ILI syndromes do not require the support of a laboratory test.

As a bonus, volunteer ILI providers will receive FREE personalized weekly email updates of SC flu activity, as well as subscriptions to the CDC MMWR and Emerging Infectious Disease Journals. Those wishing to volunteer in this system should contact Dr. Lena Bretous at 803-898-0862, or the epidemiology section at the local health department as listed at the end of this health update.

Resource Links

CDC Laboratory Diagnosis of Influenza

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/labdiagnosis.htm>

DHEC June 8, 06 Health Update on Interim Guidance on Lab Testing for Avian Influenza

- <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flualert.htm>

WHO Confirmed Human Cases of H5N1 worldwide

- http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings:

- www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm

CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals:

- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ISOLAT/Isolat.htm

DHEC Influenza Surveillance Website:

- <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2006 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

POSITIVE RAPID INFLUENZA SUMMARY WORKSHEET 2006-2007



Guidance for use of this worksheet:

- a) This does not take the place of reporting positive influenza viral culture results, which are still reportable using the DHEC 1129 Cards.
- b) Fax or email this completed worksheet **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK** to the Region-specific Health Department fax/phone/addresses (see below). These contact numbers are also available at: http://www.dhec.sc.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
- c) This worksheet is offered as an alternative to submitting patient-specific 2006 or 2007 SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Disease Reporting Cards (DHEC 1129 cards) when reporting Influenza, positive rapid test results.
- d) Facilities using this worksheet are required to enter the:
 - a. Reporting period date (week beginning on Sunday),
 - b. Facility/Practice name,
 - c. County in which the facility/practice is located, and
 - d. Influenza type being identified (e.g., Influenza A, Influenza B, Influenza A/B, or unknown).
- e) If methodologies change such that a different influenza type is being identified during the influenza season, please update the "type of influenza being identified" section of this worksheet prior to weekly submission.

For the week beginning _____ (Sunday – Saturday)

Reporting Facility/Practice: _____

County: _____

Type of influenza (A, B, A or B, or unknown) being identified via test methodology: _____

	Positive for Influenza A	Positive for Influenza B	Positive for Influenza A or B
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Weekly Totals			

Regional Public Health Offices – 2006-2007

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126, x-138 or x-174
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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